Listing of the CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement; and

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein:

the method includes:

correcting a first image of the image sequence by determining the displacement from one of (i) first image data of the first image of the image sequence and second image data of a second image of the image, and (ii) the first image data of the first image of the image sequence and starting image data of a starting image sequence; and

determining a regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of the image regions is determined from one of (i) the first image data of the first image and the second image inside the at least one image region, and (ii) the first image data of the first image and the second starting image inside the at least one image region; and

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the step of determining the displacement uses the regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions as the displacement.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the position and the dimensions of at least one first image region are selected so that the at least one first image region of images to be corrected is mainly filled in by an image background.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the position and the dimensions of at least one second image region are selected so that the at least one second image region of images to be corrected is mainly filled in by an image foreground.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein at least one of at least one first image region and at least one second image region is used as a function of a reliability factor for determining the regional displacement to determine the displacement.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein:

two first image regions and one second image region are available for image correction; and

the displacement is determined from one of the following, in a descending priority order:

a mean of regional displacements of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determinations for the two first image regions is considered sufficient;

a regional displacement of one of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determination is considered sufficient; and

a regional displacement of the second image region.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, wherein the method is used for a head-shoulder recording situation, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement;

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions;

correcting a first image of the image sequence by determining the displacement from one of (i) first image data of the first image of the image sequence and second image data of a second image of the image, and (ii) the first image data of the first image of the image sequence and starting image data of a starting image sequence;

determining a regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of the image regions is determined from one of (i) the first image data of the first image and the second image inside the at least one image region, and (ii) the first image data of the first image and the second starting image inside the at least one image region, wherein the step of determining the displacement uses the regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions as the displacement;

selecting the two first image regions to be in a lateral region to the left and right of a vertical center line of a predetermined rectangular image;

selecting a distance of the two first image regions from a bottom image margin to be greater than another distance of the two first image regions from a top image margin; and

selecting the second image region to be near a center of the image;

wherein:

two first image regions and one second image region are available for image correction; and

the displacement is determined from one of the following, in a descending priority order:

a mean of regional displacements of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determinations for the two first image regions is considered sufficient;

a regional displacement of one of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determination is considered sufficient; and

a regional displacement of the second image region.

21. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image

regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement;

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions;

correcting a first image of the image sequence by determining the displacement from one of (i) first image data of the first image of the image sequence and second image data of a second image of the image, and (ii) the first image data of the first image of the image sequence and starting image data of a starting image sequence; and

determining a regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of the image regions is determined from one of (i) the first image data of the first image and the second image inside the at least one image region, and (ii) the first image data of the first image and the second starting image inside the at least one image region;

wherein the determining of the displacement uses the regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions as the displacement;

wherein at least one of at least one first image region and at least one second image region is used as a function of a reliability factor for determining the regional displacement to determine the displacement; and

wherein determined regional displacements and reliability factors of the determined regional displacements for two image regions are determined by:

determining a regional displacement and a correlation quotient for each of the two image regions;

determining a threshold value function as a function of the regional displacement of each of the two image regions;

comparing a determined correlation quotient of one of the two image regions to a threshold value resulting from the threshold value function for a regional displacement of another of the two image regions; and

determining the reliability factor of the determined regional displacement of each of the two image regions to be sufficient when the determined correlation quotient corresponding to the one of the two image regions is greater than the

threshold value of the threshold value function compared to the determined
correlation quotient.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the determined correlation
quotient of one of the two image regions is determined by:

using block-matching to determine displacement correlation values for a plurality of
possible regional displacements;

determining a regional displacement having a maximum displacement correlation
value to be the regional displacement of the image regions; and

determining the correlation quotient by dividing the maximum displacement
correlation value by a mean of determined displacement correlation values.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein:

the threshold value function assumes a value of a preselected second threshold value
by for each arbitrary regional displacement less than a preselected first threshold value;

the threshold value function assumes a value of the preselected second threshold value
minus a product for each arbitrary regional displacement greater than the preselected first
threshold value;

the product includes a preselected slope parameter and a difference as factors; and

the difference being formed from the arbitrary regional displacement and the
preselected first threshold value.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein for each of the image regions,
the regional displacement is determined using block-displacement information from a
block-based encoding process by considering the block-displacement information of blocks
lying inside a specific image region.

25. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image
sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the
images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image
regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of
image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of
pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly
caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the
image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional
movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement;

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions;

correcting a first image of the image sequence by determining the displacement from one of (i) first image data of the first image of the image sequence and second image data of a second image of the image, and (ii) the first image data of the first image of the image sequence and starting image data of a starting image sequence; and

determining a regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of the image regions is determined from one of (i) the first image data of the first image and the second image inside the at least one image region, and (ii) the first image data of the first image and the second starting image inside the at least one image region, wherein the determining of the displacement uses the regional displacement of the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions as the displacement;

wherein at least one of at least one first image region and at least one second image region is used as a function of a reliability factor for determining the regional displacement to determine the displacement;

wherein for each of the image regions, the regional displacement is determined using block-displacement information from a block-based encoding process by considering the block-displacement information of blocks lying inside a specific image region; and

wherein for each of the image regions, the regional displacement, including a horizontal component and a vertical component, and the reliability factor of a determined regional displacement are determined by:

determining the horizontal component of the regional displacement by generating a first frequency distribution for frequencies of different values of the horizontal component of the block-displacement information, the horizontal component of the regional displacement corresponding to a value of the horizontal component of the block-displacement information, at which the first frequency distribution assumes its principal maximum;

determining the vertical component of the regional displacement by generating a second frequency distribution for frequencies of different values of the vertical component of the block-displacement information, the vertical component of the regional displacement corresponding to a value of the vertical component of the block-displacement information, at which the second frequency distribution assumes its principal maximum;

determining the reliability factor of the determined regional displacement to be sufficient when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

an absolute value of a difference in position of values of the horizontal component of the block-displacement information, corresponding to the principal maximum and a secondary maximum of the first frequency distribution, is less than a preselected first difference threshold;

the absolute value of a difference in position of values of the vertical component of the block-displacement information, corresponding to the principal maximum and a secondary maximum of the second frequency distribution, is less than a preselected second difference threshold;

the principal maximum of the first frequency distribution is greater than a first frequency threshold; and

the principal maximum of the second frequency distribution is greater than a second frequency threshold.

26. (Previously Presented) A device for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence, the device comprising:

a displacement-detection arrangement to perform a process for determining the displacement of images in the image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, the process including:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement; and

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the second image data of the second image of the image sequence precedes directly the first image.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the starting image data of the starting image of the image sequence precedes directly the first image.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the two first image regions are selected to be in the lateral region to the left and right of the vertical center line of the predetermined rectangular image, and symmetrical to the vertical center line.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the second image region is selected to be near the center of the image, and symmetric to the vertical center line of the rectangular image.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the second image region is selected to be near the center of the image, and symmetric to the vertical center line of the rectangular image.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the distance of the second image region from the top image margin is selected to be greater than the distance of the second image region from the bottom image margin.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the distance of the second image region from the top image margin is selected to be greater than the distance of the second image region from the bottom image margin.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the two image regions include the two first image regions.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the block-displacement information includes displacement vectors.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, wherein the method is used for a head-shoulder recording situation, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement;

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determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions;

selecting the two first image regions to be in a lateral region to the left and right of a vertical center line of a predetermined rectangular image;

selecting a distance of the two first image regions from a bottom image margin to be greater than another distance of the two first image regions from a top image margin; and

selecting the second image region to be near a center of the image;

wherein:

two first image regions and one second image region are available for image correction; and

the displacement is determined from one of the following, in a descending priority order:

a mean of regional displacements of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determinations for the two first image regions is considered sufficient;

a regional displacement of one of the two first image regions, when a reliability of the regional displacement determination is considered sufficient; and

a regional displacement of the second image region.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for determining a displacement of images in an image sequence for compensating for a camera movement, a plurality of image regions of the images being available for determining the displacement, each of the plurality of image regions being provided at a preselected position of the images, and each of the plurality of image regions having preselected dimensions, in which there are predetermined numbers of pixels in various directions of the image, and for separating an image movement mainly caused by a camera movement from an additional movement, which is superimposed on the image movement in subregions of an image to be corrected, the method comprising:

determining a probability of the image movement occurring without the additional movement at different positions of an image;

specifying and fixing, for each of the plurality of image regions, a position and dimensions as a function of the probability of the image movement occurring inside at least one image region of the plurality of image regions without the additional movement; and

determining the displacement by preferentially using the at least one image region of the plurality of image regions;

wherein at least one of at least one first image region and at least one second image region is used as a function of a reliability factor for determining the regional displacement to determine the displacement; and

wherein for each of the image regions, the regional displacement is determined using block-displacement information from a block-based encoding process by considering the block-displacement information of blocks lying inside a specific image region.